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STATUS OF USSR PEAT INDUSTRY AT END OF 1952

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources_7

Plan Fulfillment

The peat industry of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations USSR completed the 1951 plan 113.9 percent but the 1952 plan only 97.9 percent. Unfavorable weather conditions during the 1952 season led to a decrease in gross production of 1.8 percent below the preliminary estimate.

Although Glavtorf (Main Administration of the Peat Industry) did not fulfill the plan for peat extraction, the Orekhovo, Gor'kiy, and Sverdlovsk peat trusts closed the peat season successfully, fulfilling the plan not only for extraction but also for drying and hauling of lump peat.

The Chernoramenskiy, Kirov, and Lithuanian peat trusts exceeded the plan, but part of the lump peat remained unhauled. Although specific peat trusts fulfilled the plan as a whole, certain enterprises in these trusts failed to do so, for example, the Zenginskiy peat enterprise of the Kirov Peat Trust fulfilled the plan for the extraction of milled peat only 77.5 percent and the Chisto-Borskiy peat enterprise of the Gor'kiy Peat Trust also failed to meet the plan.

The Leningrad, Ivanovo, and Shatura peat trusts did particularly bad work. The Ivanovo Peat Trust actually completed the plan for the extraction of milled peat only 54.2 percent and left unhauled 24 percent of the lump peat extracted.(1)

Mechanization of Labor

Despite indicated defects, 1952 marked further progress in mechanization of heavy and labor-consuming work. Mechanization of the extraction, drying, gathering, and shipping of milled peat is almost completed, and 90 percent of all the excavator peat extracted was moved and laid out on the drying fields by electric spreading machines. The level of mechanization in transferring hydropeat pipes rose 70 percent over 1951, and mechanization in the gathering of lump peat increased —

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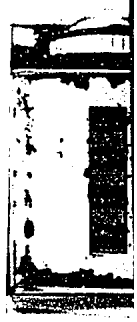


2.4 times during the year. The peat industry received a greater number of machines of the most up-to-date design, for example, gathering and piling machines for milled peat, and experiments were successfully conducted under industrial conditions with the UKB machine in combination with the SKS power-driven, self-discharging bucket for gathering excavator peat.

The Orekhovo, Sitniki, and Karinskiy peat enterprises completed the plan for the mechanized gathering of lump peat, but the Ivanovo, Leningrad, and Belorussian peat enterprises failed in this respect.

As a result of the increased level of mechanization, the average annual number of workers was 9 percent less in 1952 than in 1951.

Machine-building plants of Glavtorfmash (Main Administration of Peat Machinery) fulfilled the 1952 plan for gross commercial production and for basic variety of peat machines, with the exception of the UKB-4 machine in the case of the Kuznetsk plant.

Highly productive ESM-8A electric spreader machines, UPF-2 gathering and piling machines, SVF-2 power-driven scoops, and the UKB-4 machine for gathering lump peat have been supplied to peat enterprises. However, the quality of individual machines was unsatisfactory and much work had to be done in peat enterprises to eliminate defects in manufacture (1)

Quality of Peat

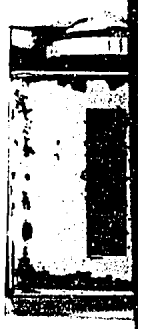
The quality of peat fuel recently supplied to consumers by enterprises of Glavtorf of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations USSR is characterized by the following average indexes: moisture content of lump peat -- 32.6-38.2 percent, ash content -- 9.4-10.4 percent, moisture content of milled peat -- 46.4-47.0 percent, ash content -- 9.9-10.4 percent. According to data from an inventory on 1 October 1952, the moisture content was 0.1 percent higher for Glavtorf than in 1951 and that of milled peat was 1.6 percent higher

The directors of enterprises of Glavtorf have not paid adequate attention to the quality of milled peat in gathering it. As a result, a considerable amount was gathered with a moisture content of 45-50 percent and there were instances where peat which was substandard in both moisture and ash contents was gathered (Zenginskiy peat enterprise of the Kirov Peat Trust, Chisto-Borskiy enterprise of the Gor'kiy Peat Trust, and Savvat'yevskiy enterprise of the Kalinin Peat Trust).

In the Ezherelis enterprise of the Lithuanian Peat Trust, the moisture content of almost 30,000 tons of milled peat increased to such an extent during storage as to make the peat substandard.

In a number of enterprises of Glavtorf the ash content of hydropeat was increased during the extraction process. In the Markovo-Sbornyy peat enterprise of the Ivanovo Peat Trust, the ash content of the deposit was 5.6 percent, that of the finished product, 10 percent; for the Teykovskiy enterprise of the same trust the figures were 5.6 and 9.2 percent, respectively; for the Irinovskiy peat enterprise of the Leningrad Peat Trust, 8.4 and 16.3 percent; for the Tesovo I enterprise of the same trust, 6.5 and 12.4 percent; for the Orekhovo enterprise, 6.6 and 13.4 percent; for the Yaroslavl' enterprise, 6.9 and 14.1 percent.

A deterioration in quality was also noted in some enterprises in the mechanized gathering of lump peat with the UKB-TUM gathering machines. This was caused by poor preparation of the drying fields and improper preparation of the peat for gathering. The moisture content of lump peat gathered by the UKB-TUM machine increased in specific cases 10 percent, for example, in the Chernoramenskiy and Mugreyevskiy peat enterprises of the Chernoramenskiy Peat Trust.



Violation of technical exploitation rules also occurred in the gathering of peat and, as a result, 20,700 tons of lump peat with a moisture content of more than 60 percent were gathered in the period from 1 July through 1 October.

In the Naziya peat enterprise increases occurred in the established depth for flooding in the extraction of hydropeat, and, as a result, the overflow of hydromasses onto the fields amounted to 15,200 tons at the end of the season. This complicated even more the already difficult drying conditions during the 1952 season and was one of the reasons for the increased moisture in the prepared product and for the fact that part of the peat remained in an unfinished state.

The moisture content of lump peat supplied to electric power stations in October and November 1951 was 30 percent; in October 1952, it had reached 41.3 percent; and in November 1952, 43 percent. The moisture content of milled peat was 46.5 percent in October 1951 and 49 percent in 1952.(2)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Torfyanaya Promyshlennost', No 1, 1953

2. Ibid., No 2, 1953

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